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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,523	04/29/2002	Jeannine Choppin	WOBI AO INS	5483

466 7590 04/07/2003

YOUNG & THOMPSON
745 SOUTH 23RD STREET 2ND FLOOR
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER

SALIMI, ALI REZA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1648

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DATE MAILED: 04/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/980,523

Applicant(s)
Choppin et al

Examiner
A. R. SALMI

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1648

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE One MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claims 1-24 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The receipt of preliminary amendments of 3/12/2001, and 4/29/2002, are acknowledged. Claims 23-24 have been added. Claims 1-24 are pending.

Please note the claims are generally narrative, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and do not conform with current U.S. practice. The correction is respectfully requested.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-8, drawn to polypeptidic fragments of E6. **(Please note if this group is selected further select one sequence to be examined on the merits, and amend the claims accordingly, see below for explanation)**

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Group II, claim(s) 1, 9-13, drawn to polypeptidic fragment of E7. **(Please note if this group is selected further select one sequence to be examined on the merits, and amend the claims accordingly, see below for explanation)**

Group III, claim(s) 1, 14, drawn to polypeptidic fragment. **(Please note if this group is selected further select one sequence to be examined on the merits, and amend the claims accordingly, see below for explanation; in addition, further select one species from substitution, suppression, addition, modification introducing retro, retro-inverso type to be examined on the merits, and amend the claims accordingly, see below for explanation)**

Group IV, claim(s) 15, 16, 23, drawn to nucleotide sequence. **(Please note if this group is selected further select one sequence to be examined on the merits, and amend the claims accordingly, see below for explanation)**

Group V, claim(s) 17, 24, drawn to polyclonal or monoclonal antibody. **(Please note if this group is selected further select one sequence to be examined on the merits, and amend the claims accordingly, see below for explanation)**

Group VI, claim(s) 18, drawn to Lipopeptide. **(Please note if this group is selected further select one sequence to be examined on the merits, and amend the claims accordingly, see below for explanation)**

Group VII, claim(s) 19, drawn to DNA vaccine. **(Please note if this group is selected further select one sequence to be examined on the merits, and amend the claims accordingly, see below for explanation)**

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Group VIII, claim(s) 20, drawn to the use of polyepitopic. **(Please note if this group is selected further select one sequence to be examined on the merits, and amend the claims accordingly, see below for explanation)**

Group IX, claim(s) 21, drawn to epitopes of E6 protein of HPV. **(Please note if this group is selected further select one sequence to be examined on the merits, and amend the claims accordingly, see below for explanation)**

Group X, claim(s) 22, drawn to epitopes of E7 protein of HPV. **(Please note if this group is selected further select one sequence to be examined on the merits, and amend the claims accordingly, see below for explanation)**

The inventions listed as Groups I-X do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The invention of Group I is known in the prior art as evidenced by Muller et al (EP0451 550 A2) wherein the reference teaches the product of polyepitopic human papillomavirus type (HPV-16). The cited evidence proves that the technical feature of Group I does not make a contribution over the prior art. Thus, the claims are not so linked by a special technical feature within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2.

Upon election of any one of Groups I to X, Applicants are additionally required to elect a single Sequence identified by a specific sequence identification number, as indicated above as they apply

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to group(s). The recited sequences have different structures one from other and the search for the sequences would be unduly burdensome. This requirement is not to be construed as a requirement for an election of species, since each of the sequence(s) is not a member of a single genus of invention, but constitutes an independent and patentably distinct invention.

This application contains claims directed to more than one species. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

substitution, suppression, addition, modification introducing retro, retro-inverso type

The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The species confer different structure and presumably different effect on antigenicity and since the effects of the cited species is/are unpredictable, hence, a selection of a single specie is required.

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument

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that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

Conclusion

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. R. Salimi whose telephone number is (703) 305-7136. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 Am to 6:00 Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Housel, can be reached on (703) 308-4027. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3014, or (703) 308-4242.

Application/Control Number: 09/980,523

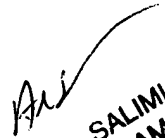
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

A. R. Salimi

4/7/2003


ALI R. SALIMI
PRIMARY EXAMINER